

## Planner's comments

This lovely mixed area of semi-runnable open and wooded slopes was a great place to welcome in another QOFL season. But not for the first time in a QOFL series, it almost didn't happen- with five weeks to go, the club didn't have a planner or controller. I stepped in because I felt I could put together a reasonable event with just three half day visits, which is all I could manage. My confidence was because I'd controlled in the Triscombe / Aisholt area two two years running and felt I knew the area well enough.

Getting a controller to share the burden was a must but at such a late stage, who would do it? It was unbelievably lucky to get Simon to control, with four weeks left. He was able to visit the area and submit reports to me very quickly and also to set out some map updates, which took the pressure off. With my two of my three available site spent and courses essentially planned, realistically the scope for replanning and alterations was very limited and this must have been frustrating for Simon, who had so many ideas.

Thankfully, I was able to beef up the Blue course in particular by taking on several of Simon's suggestions for different legs, controls sites and even building features (I managed one cairn!). I've noticed other planners build their own features to an extent, but this and several other areas we use could certainly benefit from the building of strategically located control sites.

Finally, thank you to Bill for once again being so responsive and producing and updating the maps at a quite late stage.

Jeff Pakes